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## STATES' RIGHTS AND MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to respect the rights of States that have governed in an area for over 30 years.

This House will consider H.R. 5 tomorrow. This legislation does nothing more than attempt to impose Congress' will on States without giving them the opportunity to draft their own solutions to this problem.

Medical malpractice is a problem. Insurance rates are a problem. Availability is a problem. But our States have dealt with this issue for almost 30 years now, and I know that in Texas the State legislature is considering a piece of legislation now. In fact, in 37 States, States are considering legislation now.

State legislatures have always been the laboratories for successful legislation. They are best positioned to determine how to address the medical malpractice situation in these States. These lawsuits are filed in State courts, not in Federal courts. H.R. 5, however, ignores the hard work being done by our States and imposes a one-size-fits-all, Washington-knows-best approach; and that is not the way to govern.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues who consider themselves defenders of States' rights to oppose H.R. 5 tomorrow and let the State legislatures do their job.

## ALLOW MIGUEL ESTRADA A FAIR VOTE

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, nearly 2 years ago President Bush nominated Miguel Estrada to fill a vacancy in the United States Court of Appeals. During this time, the President's opponents have turned "advise and consent" into "criticize and dissent." They have stalled nearly all of his judicial nominations and much of his domestic agenda as well.

The President's opponents are purposely relegating important legislation to their "criticize and dissent" penalty box. This filibuster is not about Miguel Estrada. He is qualified to serve, and everybody knows that. No, sadly, this is a part of a larger plot to shut down our lawmaking process in an effort to score political points.

With terrorists knocking at our door, gas and heating prices soaring, an economy in need of a jump-start, they want to tie up the vital business of America with a filibuster against Miguel Estrada. And it will not end with Miguel Estrada. They will continue to obstruct at every turn.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opponents to allow Miguel Estrada a fair vote, return to the crucial work for which they were elected, and set free the legislative process they are holding hostage.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Members are reminded not to make inappropriate statements about the Senate.

## DO NOT CUT IMPACT AID TO SCHOOLS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose the President's proposal to drastically cut Impact Aid to schools.

The need has been clear for over half a century. Begun in 1950, Impact Aid compensates districts for the loss of taxes that support schools. Military land and the military homes located on that land do not pay property taxes.

But the administration would cut funding for children living off base, even though the compensation rate is much lower. Yet taxes are also lost from these families. Over three-quarters of servicemembers living in my district claim residence in other States and do not pay State income or car registration taxes. Sales at commissaries or exchanges on bases are exempt from State sales taxes. Property, income, and sales taxes are all needed to pay for education.

Today, Mr. Speaker, as members of our armed services are deploying in large numbers to prepare for a possible war, it is critical for them to know that their children's schools are being supported by the very country for whom they are prepared to give their lives.

## THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, long ago it was written, "Choose this day whom you will serve."

Today, as we go about the people's business in this House of Representatives, in another body on the east coast of this country, an international security council meets and makes decisions about who the United Nations will serve in these momentous times.

Will the United Nations be a cover for tyrants and for nations who give them succor and support, or will the United Nations fulfill its historic mission and be about the business of advancing freedom in the world, confronting tyranny in the world, sup-

porting civil liberties and basic human rights?

It is time for the U.N. to choose. But as the members of that historic body meet this very week and make these momentous decisions, let them know that in this Congress, after these times have passed, we will debate and we will decide and we will choose the metes and bounds of the commitment of the United States of America to the United Nations.

## NEW LEVEL OF BUFFOONERY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this House reached a new level of buffoonery yesterday when one of the Members here used his authority to require vendors to rename French toast and that famous Belgian delicacy, French fries, saying this would "show support for the American troops protecting freedom abroad."

Now, Mr. Speaker, having been a "troop," I do not think many people are going to have their morale raised much by us calling it "freedom toast."

President Chirac's efforts to find a way to disarm Saddam without getting American troops killed is not an act of effrontery or hatred toward the United States.

I could recite a whole long litany of French contributions to our military goals, from providing the majority of troops at Yorktown, to voting with us more than 98 percent of the time in the Security Council, and we all know that France has been our longest and strongest ally.

We could take that picture down over there of Mr. Lafayette. He fought at Yorktown. Why not really be silly and make ourselves laughingstocks?

Mr. Speaker, let us stop putting this kind of silliness out and demeaning our relationship with the French.

## SUPPORT PRESIDENT'S PRO-GROWTH, PRO-JOBS TAX PROPOSAL

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support a pro-growth, pro-jobs plan. The President's tax proposal is critical to our Nation's economic health. Critics describe tax relief for working families, small businesses, and investors as a "cost" we cannot afford. Viewing this as a cost is shortsighted and simply bad economic theory.

If we look at the reality of the President's proposal, the reality of what tax relief will do, we know that this plan will generate enough jobs and tax revenues to reduce the so-called costs by 56.8 percent.

A key component of the President's plan for growth is dividend tax relief. If